

VINTAGE GEAR

TRIXON LUXUS



First of a series of German Trixons from the 2012 UK National Drum Fair

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After owning five Trixon kits and collecting Trixon foot pedals, stool, drum keys, drum books/catalogues and nine snare drums I thought my collection was complete. Then I saw this stunning example. I was totally blown away by the Aquamarine Sparkle wrap and knew it was an early model. Fortunately for me my birthday is in September and my wife bought it as a present on eBay in August 2012. It came from Liverpool where it had been used in a theatre." So says owner Dave Prince who paid £225 for this kit minus the Trixon snare, which he found later. The seller threw in a 1980s Rogers DynaSonnic snare," adds Dave, "which I recently sold for £150, so technically I got this stunning example for £105!"

Dave's story proves there are still amazing finds to be made in the vintage market. The kit's a Trixon Luxus Q/200, made in Hamburg in 1959 or 1960. Trixon drums were imported to the UK by Ivor Arbliter and were popular in the late-1950s/early-1960s, giving Premier and Ajax some competition. Luxus kits were played by many top Brits including Allan Ganley, Phil Seaman, Brian Bennett and Clem Cattini.

This Trixon has the tear-drop lugs which were used until around 1962. And the birch or beech 4mm-thick, 3-ply shells with 3-ply

reinforcing rings, which according to Ingo Winterberg in his Trixon book were standard up till about 1960/61. Also, until 1962/63 Trixon shells were metric sizes, so international heads won't fit. Thus, for example, the nominally 20"x16" bass drum is slightly undersized at 50cm x 40cm. The other nominal sizes are 13"x8¼", 16"x16" and 14"x5" snare drum with parallel strainer mechanism.

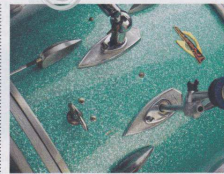
Trixon triple-flanged hoops are bent inwards at the top in a similar manner to Slingerland's, and the lug bolts have slot-headed screws, typical of European drums of the period. The snare's top hoop has a wider lip-over and Dave reveals he actually bought the snare with its perfectly matching finish from Ingo Winterberg in September 2012. Ingo says, "The twined top hoop was used until 1966, so it does not match exactly. This must have been changed in the late- to early-1950s as this is how I received it."

"Aquamarine Sparkle finishes are mostly faded," continues Dave, "but not with this kit, which is in very nice condition. I gigged it for the first time last night and got a great deal of interest from everyone. It sounded full, the rack tom with its two dampers doesn't ring at all and the snare drum has a great crack to it and is fabulous for rim-shots." R

"I GIGGED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST NIGHT. THE SNARE HAS A GREAT CRACK TO IT AND IS FABULOUS FOR RIM-SHOTS" OWNER DAVE PRINCE



THROW-OFF
Snare has parallel action throw-off and even the snare guard on the bottom hoop has the Trixon logo.



HARDWARE
Shipform mounting plates with tear-drop lugs and Trixon badge. Note tuning key slotted into socket.



BASS DRUM PEDAL
Original 172 bass drum pedal, made between 1950 and 1956. Has twin springs and leather drive strap.



FINISH
Kit is finished in striking Aquamarine Sparkle wrap

Need to know



HISTORY
The Luxus Q/200 was Trixon's standard professional kit from the early 1950s through to the company's demise in 1970.

FINISH
Aquamarine Sparkle (TXS) is one of eight striking sparkle wrap finishes found on Trixon drums.

SHELLS
Shells were made from birch or beech and were 3-ply, 4mm thick, with 3-ply reinforcing rings up to 1960/61.

WING NUTS
Stylish bass drum wing nuts with Trixon logo and tear-drop lug, the latter used up till around 1962

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